

Little Pipe Creek Park Restoration Project

The purpose of this project was to restore and enhance approximately 40 acres of stream and riparian habitat along Little Pipe Creek in the town of Union Bridge.

The restoration site is located where the stream had been channelized sometime prior to 1937. Over the years, severe erosion of the straightened channel banks, in addition to the lack of trees along the stream, affected the physical and biological aspects of Little Pipe Creek. In-stream conditions such as temperature, turbidity, and overall habitat were very degraded, and the floodplain that once contained nontidal wetlands was ditched to speed up drainage of pasture land.

The restoration phase of this project included stream bank stabilization, the restoration and enhancement of wetlands adjacent to Little Pipe Creek, plantings of native woody trees and shrubs in the floodplain, and the construction of a half mile nature trail.

Restoration Facts

- Approximately 2,700 linear feet of Little Pipe Creek stabilized;
- Over 11 acres of floodplain wetlands restored;
- Approximately 3 acres of wetlands enhanced;
- Approximately 40 acres of riparian floodplain and streamside planted with native woody trees and shrubs;
- Approximately 2,100 linear feet of nature trail constructed

Partners:

-Town of Union Bridge
-Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
-Carroll Soil Conservation District
-Maryland Dept. of the Environment
-Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
-Natural Resources Conservation Service
-Environmental Protection Agency

Location: Carroll County, Town of Union Bridge,
MD 75 at Little Pipe Creek

Contact: Kevin Smith (kmsmith@dnr.state.md.us)
MD DNR, Watershed Restoration Division;
580 Taylor Ave., E-2; Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-8797



Before Construction:
Channelized & eroding banks.



During Construction:
Grading stream bank.



After Construction:
Bank stabilization with grading and sod mats.

Restoration at the Reach Level

Project Benefits

- ▶ Sediment loadings into Little Pipe Creek will be reduced as a result of **bank stabilization**;
- ▶ **Riparian buffer plantings** will reduce thermal pollution to the stream by increasing **shade cover**;
- ▶ The **reforestation** of approximately 40 acres along the Little Pipe Creek stream corridor will **provide habitat** and enhance floodplain stability; and
- ▶ The restoration and enhancement of nontidal wetlands in the Little Pipe Creek floodplain will provide habitat for wetland dependant wildlife and **water quality improvements**.